units of characters; and

a collating unit collating the generated feature amount of the word with a feature amount of the recognition target, and outputting a recognition result.

2. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collating unit includes a memory storing the feature amount of the word, and releases the memory when a collation of the feature amount of the word is completed.

3. (AS TWICE AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inputting unit inputting an image as the recognition target; and

an extracting unit performing a one-dimensional gradating conversion in a direction perpendicular to a connecting direction of characters for a direction code histogram of a contour line in each of a plurality of small areas in an inputted image provided that no gradating conversion is performed in the connecting direction of the characters, and extracting a direction code histogram series obtained from a conversion result as the feature amount of the recognition target.

4. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extracting unit divides a length of the inputted image in the direction perpendicular to the connection direction of characters by a predetermined integer and divides the image into the small areas with an obtained quotient as a size of each of the small areas.

5. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said generating unit generates the feature amount of the word by using feature amounts of a plurality of characters.

6. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said generating unit generates a new direction code histogram series by arranging a plurality of direction code histogram series corresponding to the feature amounts of characters composing the word and designating a generated direction code histogram series as the feature amount of the word.

7. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collating unit performs a non-linear matching of the feature amount of the word and the feature amount of the recognition target, and calculates a degree of similarity between the feature amount of the word and the feature amount of the recognition target.

8. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said listing unit stores a list which has a high possibility of containing a word corresponding to the recognition target.

9. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A word recognizing apparatus, comprising:

a generating unit referring to a list of at least one recognition candidate word, dynamically generating a feature amount of a recognition candidate word registered in the list using feature amounts of characters during a recognition process for a recognition target, which is not divided in units of characters; and

a collating unit collating the generated feature amount of the word with a feature amount of the recognition target, and outputting a recognition result.

10. (As TWICE AMENDED) A recognizing apparatus, comprising:

a generating unit referring to a list of at least one recognition candidate pattern string, dynamically generating a feature amount of a recognition candidate pattern string registered in the list using feature amounts of patterns during a recognition process for a recognition target, which is not divided in units of characters; and

a collating unit collating the generated feature amount of the pattern string with a feature amount of the recognition target, and outputting a recognition result.

11. (As TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

dynamically generating by referring to a list of at least one recognition candidate word a feature amount of a recognition candidate word registered in the list using feature amounts of characters during a recognition process for a recognition target, which is not

divided in units of characters; and

collating the generated feature amount of the word with a feature amount of the recognition target.

12. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:

dynamically generating by referring to a list of at least one recognition candidate pattern string a feature amount of a recognition candidate pattern string registered in the list using feature amounts of patterns during a recognition process for a recognition target, which is not divided in units of characters; and

collating the generated feature amount of the pattern string with a feature amount of the recognition target.

13. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A recognizing method, comprising:

generating a list of at least one candidate pattern string;

generating a dictionary for storing feature amounts of a plurality of patterns;

dynamically generating by referring to the list a feature amount of a pattern string registered in said list using feature amounts of patterns stored in said dictionary during a recognition process for a recognition target, which is not divided in units of characters ; and

collating the generated feature amount of the pattern string with a feature amount of the recognition target.